

# The Afghan Bulletin

## No. 7 August 2020



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#### "CENSUREE A KABUL" – A new discovery

It is known that censorship was imposed in the immediate aftermath of the assassination of King Nadir Shah on the 8th November 1933. According to Patterson "all mail was closely censored until early 1934. The envelopes were resealed with an imperforate mimeographed label inscribed Censuré á Kaboul par le Général-Gouverneur". Although that statement implies that the label was used for a period of about two months they are rarely seen. An example from 1st January 1934 is shown below.



Strictly speaking the "a" should be grave rather than acute and read Censuré à Kaboul par le Gouverneur Général, but the meaning is clear!

As usual, the air fee was paid with an Indian 6 Anna airmail stamp, unusually however the postage also seems to have been paid with Indian stamps (3 Annas 6 Pies) rather than Afghan.

What hasn't been recorded before is a boxed violet cachet reading CENSUREE A KABUL with Dari text beneath. Note that it is "KABUL" rather than "KABOUL". The example below is applied to both sides of a cover sent from Kabul to the USA on the 13th January 1934 (the 3 of 13 is inverted but corresponds with the Afghan date of 23 Jahdi 1312). The cover itself doesn't appear to have been opened for inspection, but it may have been handed over the counter unopened. It is franked at the normal 75 poul foreign rate, the stamps cancelled by the 1 ERE BRANCHE censor cancel.

DUNCICLED Kabul Afghanis Wahdat Shah Afghan Cornell University thaca New York .S.America



#### The rectangular Kabul censor – an interesting usage

Whilst we're on the subject of censor cancels, the cover below is an interesting example of the rectangular transit Kabul censor cancel which was introduced around about November/December 1929 and used for a couple of months until January 1930, and occasionally thereafter. This cover was sent in December 1931. The Censor cancel date is  $1 \cdot 7 \vee$  which equates to 29th December 1931, but as the Landikhana transit cancel is 23rd December 1931, one of them must be wrong! The rate is the normal 40 poul foreign letter rate.

S. E. General Prince Amandlah Miry - 8 - avenue Charles - Flogs asis Amburrade Imperiale a

The cover is addressed to His Excellency General Prince Amanullah Mirza.

Amanullah Mirza (1857-1937) was the 17th son (of 31 sons and 30 daughters) of Prince Bahman Mirza Qajar and thus a cousin of Nasr-ed Din Shah. He was born in Shusha in Russian Azerbaijan where his father was in exile. He joined the Russian army in 1879 rising to the rank of Major General. After the 1917 Russian revolution, and the formation of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, he served as a Major General in the Azeri army. After the fall of the Azeri Republic he was forced to leave for Iran where he taught at the military school and participated in the formation of the regular Iranian army. He was a deputy in the Iranian Majlis (Parliament) and chairman of the Society for Iranian-Soviet Friendship. He died in 1937 in Teheran.

#### **A Well-Travelled Cover**

Illustrated is a cover sent from Paris to Kabul in November 1931. The recipient however could not be found and it was returned to France where it arrived in February 1932 having accumulated **twenty** postal markings including the scarce KABOUL ARRIVEE.

31 1110 Guriosites L. F.F.I 48 MONN

1. PARIS 54 RUE DES BATIGNOLES, 10.30 26 II 31 (F) x 4 (3 on stamps, 1 on cover) 2. PARIS GARE PLM-AVION 16\*26 II 31 (B) 3. MARSEILLES-GARE COTES DU RHONE 11\*27 11 31 (B) 4. Boxed KARACHI CANCELLED 9 DEC 31 cancelling airmail etiquette (F) 5. Peshawar? 11 DEC 31 4PM (B) 6. Landikhana\*Indian EXCHANGE OFFICE\*12 DEC 31 (B) 7. KABOUL ARRIVEE 18 DEC 31 (B) 8. Manuscript 'Retour Inconnu' in black (also in Dari/Pasto) (F) 9. Boxed INCONNU NOT KNOWN over Dari/Pashto manuscript (B) 10. Lahore 21 Dec 31 5.30 РМ (B) 11. Manuscript 22/12 in black (F) 12. Manuscript DLO Lahore and original address crossed out (F) 13 Manuscript Not Known (B) 14. RETOUR (F) 15. Boxed RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR (F) x 2 16. D.L.O. LAHORE 24(?) DEC 31 (B) 17. D.L.O. LAHORE 22 JAN 32 (B) 18. D.L.O. BOMBAY 25 JAN 32 (B) 19. D.L.O. BOMBAY 28 JAN 32 (B) 20. PARIS VII DISTRIBUTION 10\* 13 II 32 (F)

(F) = Front (B) = Back

#### A Parcel Card to Canada, 1975

Bulletin d'Expedition from Afghanistan are not often encountered. This example was sent from Kabul on the 8th April 1975 to Quebec, Canada and bears 5 x 100 Afg President Daoud stamps.

LIOAMU (emplacement réservé aux étigentire: CP 7 et CP 8) Numéro(s) du (ou des) colis Application BULLETIN D'EXPÉDITION COUFON des timbres-posts \* - cu والابرترك Peut être détaché par le destinataire Pays d'origine callon de la taxe per Valeur déclarie tan chiffran orolnia) 69 ÷ ie de l'emb 100848 14 Numbra déclarations an douane 5/61 certificate ou factures 7-8 Montant du t 2 VEC remboursementmater letters of even jen chiffres anabes file and A porter au crédit du compte courant potal nº .... Barrito de. Nom et domicile de iens par le buress de chèques d. 500 ARSENEAULT السود آموس مؤسل الأرم 20.80 57-50 LE.M CHARD Qui Co. ronteral 1,2,0 201 RIL La baulté d'apponer les pode sur le bellatin bére sur le cospon s été mainten ramente du Congrés de L rome II, page 433; a p Billy ad to a CANADA 1,778 Poits 410 Droits de douane i<sup>ts</sup> Acheminement Timbre de la douane 3 Voia kg Bureau d'échange ks. B et, mane, certes, cortectio, un, etc. apidituar diaire cas non collo ca pol pas resceptión, il l'influence par une centricites dans se sudre et sar le sols, e a renglir par la borna d'actrica ca par la service de la douzine du Parc de dattector. (\*) Passat (\*) Si (\*ex) Calls, Brossilles 1952, and 104, § 1, inter at - Dee INSTRUCTIONS & DONNER PAR L'EXPÉDITEUR L'expéditeur est tenu d'indiquer, dans le codre ci-dessous et sur le colte, la manière dont ce deraier doit e traité en cas de non-fivration. Les instructions d'après sont seules admines. Elles peuvent être données en alignant et, s'il y a lieu, en complétant le texte imprimé. s colts pour lesquels l'expéditeur n'a pas donné d'instructions nont renvoyés sans avis. Si la livraison du colla décrit au recto du présent bulletin ne peut avoir lieu, je demande: qu'un avia de non-livraison me soit adress; que l'avia de non-livraison soit adress; AFFERINGE BAR 1 çue le culis soit renvoyé immédiateme du coluit à destination; arrivée **新田** CSTES que is colta un livré ou réaxpéd SBA 0 que le colla soit réexpédié au même s STATE OF VEDALE 8: 3 SEN URDAY VERY que le calls soit vendu à mes risglies aven que le colla soit traité comme abandonné. dignature de l'expéditeur: RÉCÉPISSE DU DESTINATAIRE Le sousigné déclare avoir reçu le(s) colls désigné(s) su recto de ca bullatin. \_le Signaturei influear la nors at l'advante d'une florte personne dant la Pape de fazification, l'adjager la nom el l'advante du encenna destinative et mantéreur éventedelersont al le suite doit être lleré anne percaption du mentant du rembouriement de inverte percennent d'une norme indivisione su montant ariabit.

#### For the record ... new revenue stamps

It was inevitable that as soon as the 2nd Edition of *The Printed Paper and Revenue Stamps of Afghanistan* was published, some new discoveries would appear. So here they are . . .

First #95, previously unseen, can now be given a colour: deep rose



Next, some entirely new additions. All have the 1348 date except the 30 Afghani. They seem to belong with #183-186. So tentatively they're numbered:

184A 1 Afg Brown-red
184B 2 Afg Rose-red
186A 10 Afg Blue-green
186B 20 Afg Deep blue
186C 30 Afg Claret
186D 50 Afg Deep blue





And an entirely new type. Tentatively numbered: 206A 3 Afg Rosine



The 'First' set of the General revenue stamps #187-206 seem to have been produced on the cusp of the addition of the  $1\%\xi\Lambda$  (1348) = 1929 date to the National Arms. Specimen stamps are known for the 4, 5 and 100 Afghani – these have no date. However, the issued stamps of all values, except the 50 and 100 Afghani, do have the date. The 1348 refers to the date of accession of the Royal dynasty of Nadir Shah after the defeat of Bacche Saqao in 1929. This version of the coat of arms was adopted in 1931.

#### Another commercial use of an Appendix issue

Further to *Bulletin No. 5* another example of a commercial usage of Appendix stamps is shown below. This one bears a 50 poul and two 175 poul of the 1961 Kabul International Exhibition set, in addition to two 1 Afghani King Zahir Shah definitives. The cover was sent from Kabul to London on 29th August 1966.



It is thought that only 25,000 sets of the International Exhibition stamps were delivered to Kabul by the Agency.



A new Arms Type (PM 5) Postmark – Bamiyan

In the mid-1920's, several post offices in the north of Afghanistan received new cancellers to replace the oval regular postmark. These new cancellers were circular and are distinctive in that they had the national coat of arms in the top segment (PM5). These are known for Badakshan, Mazar-i-Sharif, Qataghan, and Turkestan and are approximately 27mm in diameter. To that list Bamiyan can now be added.

#### The 1973 'Interim' Airletter

King Zahir Shah was deposed by his cousin Mohammed Daoud on the 17th July 1973 whilst he was in Italy for medical treatment. A new airletter bearing the head of the King had just been issued in June 1973 and as an interim measure it continued in use with a 25 poul stamp applied over the King's head. It is thought that the 25 poul stamp had no bearing on the 8 Afghani value of the airletter.

A new airletter bearing an image of a plane over a globe was issued later in 1973.

AEROGRAMME (1)				K
AEROGRAMME()),	To: Mr. W.N.	A CONTRACTOR OF	A TONY	
	910 college Southe Ste	Marie	POSTES AFGHANES	
	Michigator	49783	RAFS JUIA	
	U.S. A			

Used examples of the 'interim' airletter are scarce which would suggest that their period of use must have been quite short – only until the new design appeared a few months later. Although the postmark on the above example is indistinct, the letter inside is clearly dated 20th August 1975 which is much later than expected – perhaps an example of waste not want not?

Afghanistan 1901-1933

Second Edition

Due: October 2020 Price: £35 +p&p



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